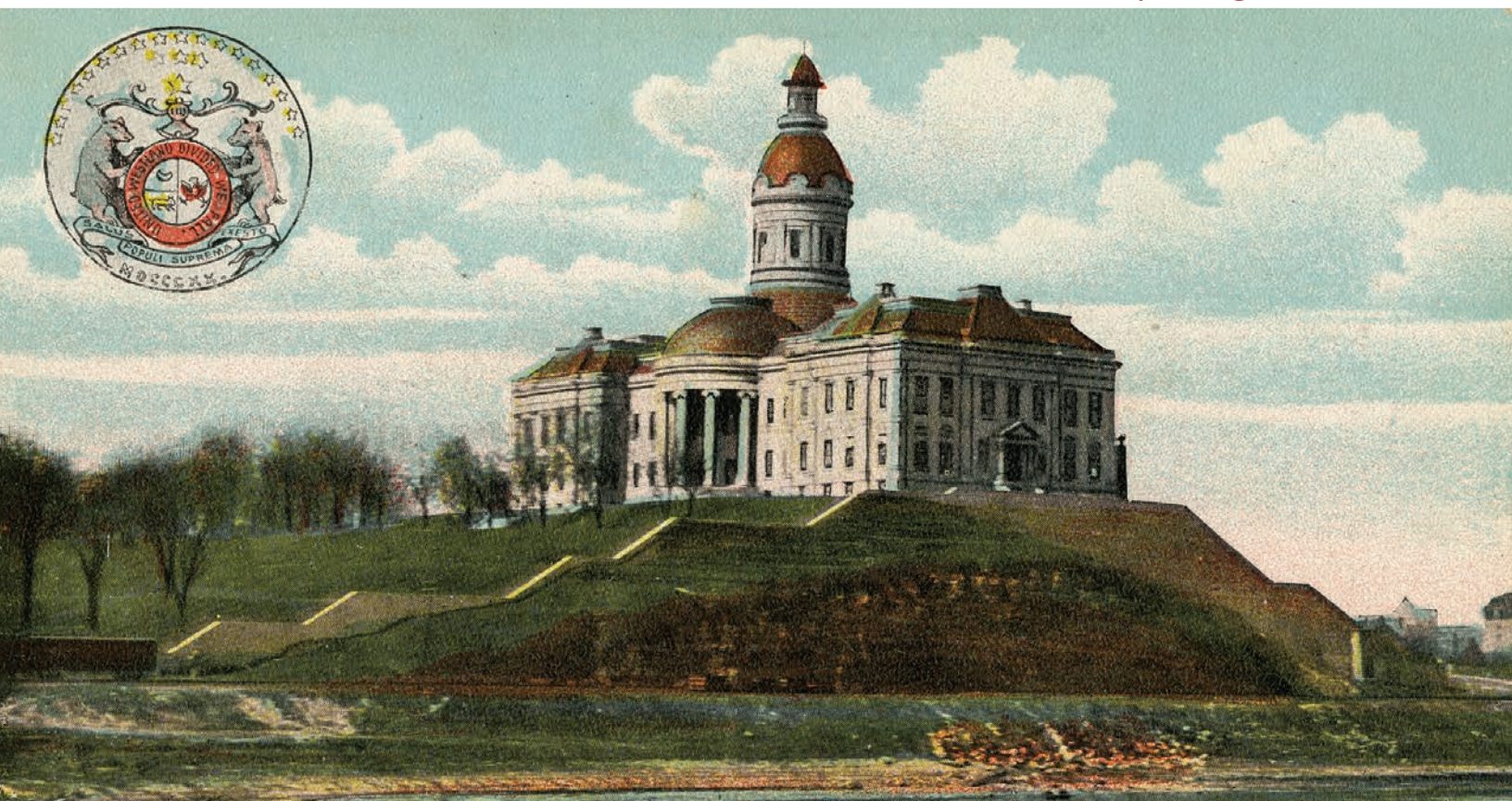


Fall 2013

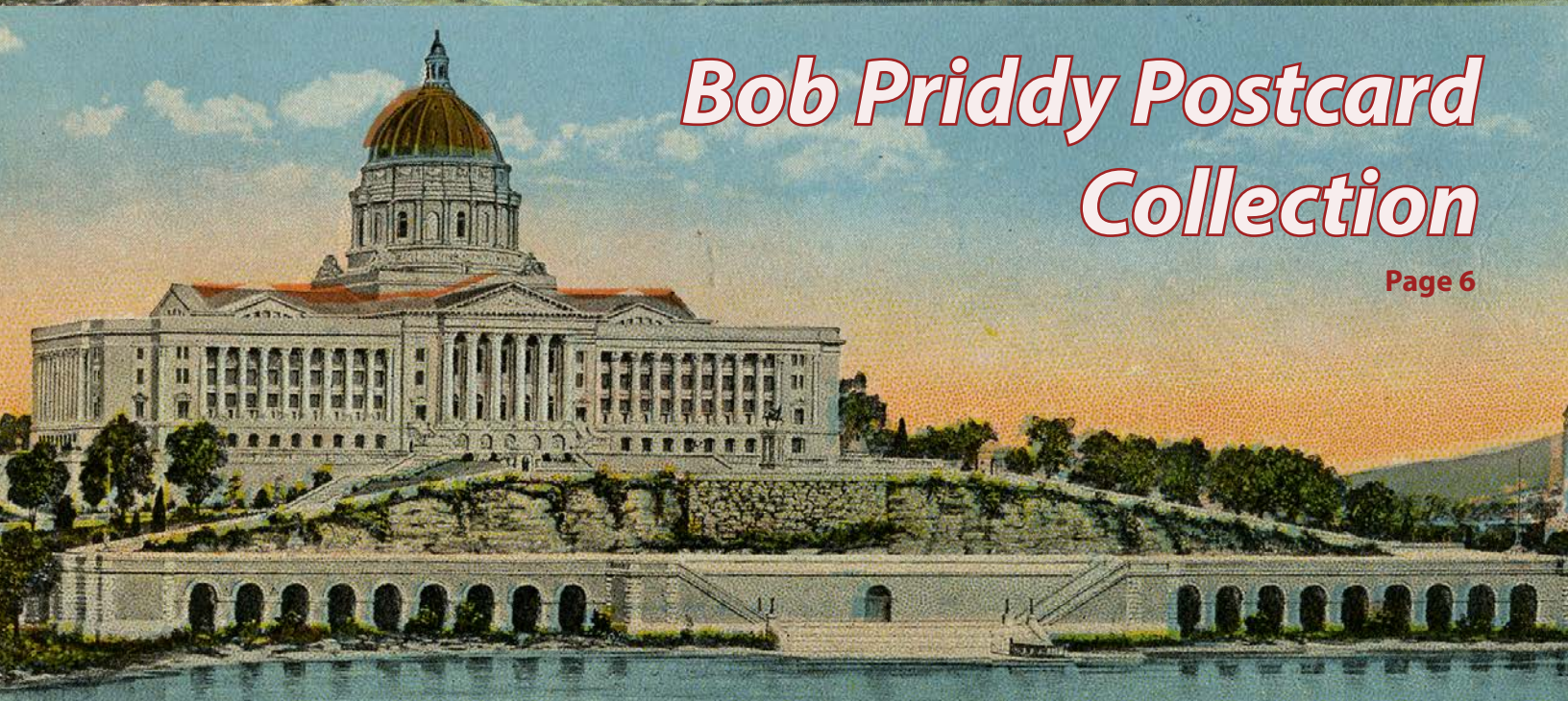
# THE MISSOURI STATE ARCHIVES . . .

*Where History Begins*



## *Bob Priddy Postcard Collection*

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# THE MISSOURI STATE ARCHIVES . . .

## Where History Begins

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The purpose of the Friends of the Missouri State Archives is to render support and assistance to the Missouri State Archives. As a not-for-profit corporation, the Friends organization is supported by memberships and gifts.

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**Missouri  
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Jason Kander • Secretary of State

#### On the Cover

Top: Missouri State Capitol, c. 1910.  
Bottom: Missouri State Capitol,  
with proposed stairs and terrace, c. 1920.  
From the Bob Priddy Postcard Collection,  
Missouri State Archives.



# From the State Archivist



In the last six months, the St. Louis Genealogical Society, the Missouri State Genealogical Association and *Family Tree Magazine* have all recognized the Missouri State Archives for its outstanding work preserving the state's records and making them publicly accessible. In addition, Bob Priddy and Jeffrey Ball's book, *The Art of the Missouri State Capitol*, published with help from the Friends of the Missouri State Archives, received Missouri Preservation's Osmund Overby Award for its contribution to the documentation of the state's architectural history.

These accolades are all wonderful achievements, but a recent conversation with two researchers in the Missouri State Archives' reading room convinced me to broaden the focus of this column to include the praise we receive almost daily from individual patrons. In writing their most recent book, the couple's research had taken them all over the Western world—from local historical societies in Osage County to small parish churches in Germany. The pages extensively document the homes, churches and businesses where their ancestors lived, worshipped and worked. As I spoke with them, I could just feel their passion and pride in their work!

Although the Missouri State Archives was just one point of discovery for the couple, the scope of their research illustrates the broad audience supported by our efforts. Their book contains genealogy and family history, but it's also much more. It's community history. It's political, legal, social and religious history. It includes historic preservation and architectural history, and could even be used for educational purposes. The volume covers the entire research interest spectrum, much like the contents of the Missouri State Archives.

We are fortunate to serve such a wide audience, but the outreach and publicity on which we rely—including this newsletter—is largely bolstered by the generous support of the Friends of the Missouri State Archives, and for this, we are extremely grateful. Successful support organizations, like the Friends, rely on members who both believe in the organization and are committed to sustaining its efforts. The Missouri State Archives prides itself on preserving our records, as well as making them accessible to the public and we are very fortunate to have a Friends group with a membership that is truly passionate about supporting such activities. In the coming season of giving, please consider renewing your membership with the Friends of the Missouri State Archives and help us continue to provide our patrons with the best possible research experience.

John Dargatzis

### **Introduction – by Lisa Fox, Local Records Program Senior Conservator**

*During her time in the lab, Racheal learned techniques for box-making, surface cleaning, humidification and flattening, mending and toning paper to color-match torn documents. She applied these skills on several items from the Missouri State Archives, including Charles Lindbergh's 1925 National Guard Enlistment documents and maps and architectural drawings from Jefferson Barracks (1883-1946).*

In January 2012, the Missouri State Archives' Local Records (LR) Program launched the Northeast Missouri Records Preservation Program. This unique partnership between LR and Truman State University brings together students and archivists in a training setting on the university's Kirksville campus. After just two years, the program has proven a major success, in terms of both student learning and the processing of historic records.

That first semester of the program, in the winter of 2012, a senior majoring in Anthropology received her weekly departmental announcements, generally full of news that didn't apply to her, as well as notifications of internships in far off and exotic places. Even though she would never get to experience many of these opportunities, they all sounded so wonderful and impressive that she read them anyway. In that week's email, however, she noticed something different—something she considered more exciting and attainable.

It was a call for applications for an internship with the Northeast Missouri Records Preservation Program. The notice indicated students would have the opportunity to work with dusty, 19th century court documents from northeast Missouri. This practical experience was everything I had been searching for and more, and thankfully, I was that student. History, dusty documents and no plane ticket required! I applied immediately and good fortune smiled upon me because I was accepted for the summer term, along with one other student.

After enjoying a few weeks of vacation, I was excited to begin my foray into the world of archives. On our first day, LR conservators travelled from Jefferson City to instruct us in basic paper preservation techniques, as well as how to prepare circuit court case files for microfilming. Delighted by the training, I left for the day filled with enthusiasm for the weeks ahead (but with a little disappointment that the documents weren't dustier)! I also had what one might regard as an unhealthy fear

of handling historic documents—a phobia I quickly outgrew.

The Shelby County Circuit Court documents I worked with over the summer came to fascinate me, though at first, I must admit, I didn't even know where the county was located. It genuinely surprised me that northeast Missouri had such a fascinating and rich history. More importantly, I unexpectedly found that archives and records conservation effectively kept my attention.

You see, once when in kindergarten, I proudly brought a bug into the house and explained to my father that I wanted to be an entomologist. Proclamations like this followed for many years and varied wildly from Egyptologist to actress, lawyer, particle physicist and finally chemist. None of them stuck, and at the beginning of the internship, I still had no idea what I really wanted to do in terms of a career.

I found learning about archives through hands on experience was engaging and, at least for me, proved far more effective and meaningful than college classes. Yet, as the tired cliché goes, "All good things must come to an end." The internship was soon over, the fall semester started and the mundane routine of campus life resumed. However, determined not to let these words ring true, I applied for the internship once more for the following spring semester.

After a little head scratching, the LR staff again accepted me into the program, for which I am very grateful. In the spring, I returned to the project room and continued my best blotter paper impression: soaking up as much as I could about archives and document conservation. While the work was essentially the same, the records were this time from the Clark County Circuit Court. Knowing my interest focused more on "things", the good people in charge assigned readings focused mostly on conservation. Leafing through these pages, I realized that this time, I truly had a realistic career path—I want to be an artifact conservator.

Time passed, the spring semester ended and I graduated from Truman State University. Then, out of the blue, I received an email about another internship position, this time in the conservation lab at the Missouri State Archives in Jefferson City. "What a serendipitous event," I thought. It was not unlike the first fateful departmental email that led me to Northeast Missouri Records Preservation Program internship. With a bit of luck, I was selected by LR for this new internship

*Continued on Page 11*



# Coroner's Inquests as a Genealogical Tool

*By Erika Woehl, Research Analyst*

Have a relative who died under suspicious or unknown circumstances? It's quite possible a coroner's inquest was performed, and that a record of it still exists—maybe even at the Archives!

Missouri's first law regarding coroners was actually passed by the territorial legislature in 1804, seventeen years before statehood. It established the Office of the Coroner at the county level and charged that individual with determining the cause of death for persons, "supposed to have come to... [his/her] death by violence or casually found or lying within his district." After performing an investigation, the coroner was then supposed to form a jury of men from the district to decide whether the individual died of natural causes (disease), or by accident, suicide or homicide. If the jury's verdict came back as homicide, then the coroner was responsible for alerting the local circuit court judge and other authorities. The duties of the coroner have changed very little in the more than two centuries since this law was first established.



*Burial of Dr. Robert W. Conaway at Stone Hill Cemetery, Dent County, Missouri, February 1925. Photograph by Charles Elliott Gill. Missouri State Archives.*

So what comes in an inquest case file? The contents range from 100-page detailed witness accounts to one-page fee bills providing absolutely nothing other than a name and date of the inquest. Most, however, are from three to 10 pages in length. They often provide a colorful, alternative source for the much-sought-after date and cause of death, as well as the individual's age, gender and race. This documentation is often handy for genealogists in Missouri, especially since the state did not require births and deaths to be recorded until 1910. If you're lucky, you'll even find transcripts from interviews with family members and witnesses.

The Archives has an online database, available at [www.sos.mo.gov/archives/resources/coroners/](http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/resources/coroners/), containing almost 29,000 citations for coroner's inquests from Andrew, Cape Girardeau, Clinton, Cole, Pemiscot, Perry, St. Charles, St. Francois and Stoddard counties, as well as the City of St. Louis.

The corresponding records, along with those from an additional 23 counties currently not found in the database, are available on microfilm only at the Archives' Jefferson City location. To request a search of these records, contact the Archives' reference department at [archref@sos.mo.gov](mailto:archref@sos.mo.gov).

- Coroners are not required to be medical doctors or have any sort of medical training. The nitty-gritty autopsies are performed by medical examiners, the likes of whom are found on about every crime show on television. Those counties that do not have a medical examiner hire out their autopsy work to companies, other counties or independent examiners. (It's actually a misdemeanor in Missouri to perform an autopsy without a medical license.)
- In Missouri, there are 114 counties and the City of St. Louis; 101 counties have coroners and 12 counties plus the City of St. Louis have medical examiners. One lone county (Camden) currently has neither a coroner nor a medical examiner, meaning all their work must be hired out.
- Causes of death are as varied as the imagination, and range from "natural" to various types of accidents and murders. One fairly typical example is a fellow named Thomas M. Murphy who was allegedly stabbed by Clinton Little, lived for 21 days and then succumbed to tetanus on February 18, 1887 (Ripley County microfilm, reel C33795, folder two). His file lists the names of four witnesses and includes some testimony.

# Picture This

By Amy Moorman, Visual Materials Archivist

## Bob Priddy Postcard Collection

This is the second in a series of three articles describing the history of postcard collecting and significant postcard collections held by the Missouri State Archives. Look for the final installment in the upcoming winter edition of *Where History Begins!*

The practice of mailing a letter without an envelope originated in 1860s Germany. Despite concerns about the lack of privacy, these “postcards” quickly became a popular means of communication primarily because of the cheaper postage. The addition of images soon after helped maintain the postcard’s popularity and increased its value as a collector’s item.

It wasn’t until the 1893 Columbian Exposition in Chicago that postcards came into vogue in the United States. Then, in 1907, their usage proliferated due to the U.S. Post Office’s allowance of divided backs, which accommodated both the address and message on a single side. The other side could then be devoted to an image. In 1908, during the “Golden Age” of postcards, the U.S. Post Office reported 677 million were mailed.

World War I caused a disruption in the use of postcards as more people relied on the telephone for quicker communication, but their use rebounded when new technologies helped boost the quality and quantity of the medium. The ability to print on linen paper allowed for brighter color pigments, and the process was significantly cheaper than through methods previously employed. Photochrome postcards were then introduced in 1939. With their glossy appearance, the images on these cards more closely resemble actual color photograph prints as compared to earlier printing methods. Photochrome postcards are still the dominant format of postcards today.

The Missouri State Archives’ Bob Priddy Postcard Collection contains 227 historic postcards, mostly of Jefferson City landmarks. In particular, images of the state capitol are well represented. The collection dates from 1898-1971 and contains images of the old capitol building built in 1840; its ruins after the devastating 1911 fire; and the construction of, and completed, current capitol building. They wonderfully portray the history of this important site, and are a fabulous resource of quality images.

The Priddy Postcard Collection is digitized and the images are available on disc at the Missouri State Archives. In the near future, selected images will also be added to the Historic Postcards of Jefferson City Collection on Missouri Digital Heritage ([www.sos.mo.gov/mdh/](http://www.sos.mo.gov/mdh/)). A finding aid for the entire collection can be found at [www.sos.mo.gov/archives/resources/findingaids/rg998-369.pdf](http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/resources/findingaids/rg998-369.pdf).







Capital Building







*"a peculiar force, entirely separate and distinct from all other militia organizations of the State..."*

## THE MISSOURI STATE MILITIA

In his 1902 report on Missouri troops in the Civil War, U.S. Secretary of War Elihu Root described the Missouri State Militia (MSM) as "a peculiar force, entirely separate and distinct from all other militia organizations of the State..." Missouri's provisional government proposed the MSM as a force that would cooperate with U.S. troops "in repelling the invasion of the State and suppressing rebellion therein," and, on November 6, 1861, President Lincoln granted his approval.

Under the plan agreed to by Lincoln, the MSM would be "armed, equipped, clothed, subsisted, transported, and paid by the United States during such time as they shall be actually engaged as an embodied military force in service..." On February 13, 1862, the U.S. Congress stipulated that, because the services of the MSM were to be confined to the limits of Missouri, the force could not exceed 10,000 men. However, 14 cavalry regiments and one infantry regiment were eventually organized, totaling over 13,000 men.

On February 14, 1862, Brigadier General John M. Scofield issued General Orders No. 5, which designated recruiting and mustering stations and mustering officers for the Missouri State Militia. Eighteen recruiting stations were established across the state. At these locations, companies for any regiment could be mustered, meaning recruits were not restricted to service in units from the locality in which they were mustered. As the companies were organized, mustering officers could requisition subsistence stores from U.S. commissaries; clothing and quartermaster's stores from the state quartermaster-general; and arms, ammunition and other accoutrements from the state chief of ordnance.

The records of the Missouri Adjutant General, housed in the Missouri State Archives, include an extensive collection of documents on the Missouri State Militia.

## CALL FOR PAPERS

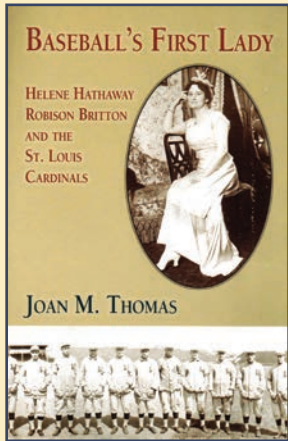


The 56th annual Missouri Conference on History, hosted by the Missouri State Archives, will be held March 17–18, 2014, at the Capitol Plaza Hotel in Jefferson City, Missouri, in conjunction with the Midwest regional meeting of Phi Alpha Theta, hosted by Park University's Zeta Omicron Chapter.

We invite paper, panel and student poster proposals on all aspects of Missouri/Midwestern, American, European and non-Western history, as well as public history and historic preservation. The conference is particularly interested in proposals for complete sessions, including panelists, chair and commentator. Anyone wishing to present a paper should submit a 100- to 200-word abstract and a brief curriculum vitae. Panel proposals should include a brief abstract in addition to short descriptions of the individual papers and brief CVs for all participants. A short abstract should be submitted with each poster proposal. Please submit all proposals by email no later than November 30, 2013, to Brian Rogers, Principal Assistant for Boards and Commissions, Missouri State Archives, at [brian.rogers@sos.mo.gov](mailto:brian.rogers@sos.mo.gov).



# Fall 2013/Winter 2014 Program Calendar



## ***Baseball's First Lady: Helene Hathaway Robison Britton and the St. Louis Cardinals***

***October 10, 2013, 7:00 p.m.***

Author and historian Joan M. Thomas recently joined us to explore the remarkable story of Helene Hathaway Robison Britton, the first female owner in Major League Baseball. Britton inherited the St. Louis Cardinals from her uncle in 1911, nearly a decade before women gained the right to vote. Operating among baseball's magnates of the day, she attended owners' meetings as an equal and took an active role in running her club. Facing competition from one, and then two other St. Louis teams, she maintained the Cardinals for six years before selling the club. While enduring legal, cultural and domestic challenges, Britton balanced her roles as businesswoman, wife and mother and established the foundation of today's successful baseball dynasty.

## ***Voodoo Priests, Noble Savages, and Ozark Gypsies:***

### ***The Life of Folklorist Mary Alicia Owen***

***November 14, 2013, 7:00 p.m.***

Noted scholar Wayland Hand once called Mary Alicia Owen "the most famous American Woman Folklorist of her time." In his new groundbreaking biography of Owen, historian Greg Olson offers the most complete account of her life and work to date. He examines Owen's connection to St. Joseph, Missouri, the town in which she lived her entire life and conducted nearly all of her research. Olson also analyzes many of the 19th century theories, stereotypes and popular beliefs that influenced Owen's writing about African-Americans and Native Americans. He shows that Owen was more than just a folklorist—she was a 19th century woman of many contradictions, who possessed a keen intellect and a genuine interest in people and their stories.



## ***Shanks to Shakers: Reflections of the Missouri State Penitentiary***

***Rescheduled: January 16, 2014, 7:00 p.m.***



Historian and author Mark S. Schreiber began his 42-year career in criminal justice in 1968 as an employee with the Missouri State Penitentiary, the longest continuously operational prison west of the Mississippi River. Although professional opportunities took him away from the facility, he eventually returned to serve as the last deputy warden before it closed in 2004. During his tenure, Schreiber collected many stories and artifacts from the prison once called "the bloodiest 47 acres in America" by Time magazine. His newest book, *Shanks to Shakers*, documents rare, historical and collectible artifacts associated with life behind these walls, including old photographs, postcards, books, prison-made weapons, paintings, woodcarvings and even salt and pepper shakers once sold in the prison gift shop! Enjoy an evening with Schreiber as he shares highlights from his book and stories from his years working at the infamous Missouri State Penitentiary.

***All programs will be held at the Missouri State Archives, 600 West Main Street, Jefferson City, Missouri, and are free and open to the public.***



# Archives Alive! Completes Ninth Season

By Brian Rogers



More than 5,600 fourth- and fifth-grade students attended this year's Civil War *Archives Alive!* performances, making it once again the most popular annual outreach program supported by the Friends of the Missouri State Archives. The history-based theatrical presentations brought children from 76 schools around the state to the Missouri State Archives to enjoy the comedic, yet educational, antics of local Jefferson City actors Alan Bailey, Laura Morris, Mark Rehagen and Mark Wegman. This group revisited their roles from the 2012 season, wherein contestants on the game show *Blast from the Past* meet President Abraham Lincoln after he hitches a ride in the new and improved Time-O-Matic 6,000 time machine. (Yes, we were forced to retire the 5,000 model due to wear and tear!)

The 2013 season marks the third year in a row the Civil War-themed version of the program drew record, or near record, crowds to learn about Missouri's role as a border state, the impact of guerrilla warfare on ordinary citizens and the effect of slavery on the state's culture and economy. Also covered was the significance of Missouri's battles and political climate on the outcome of the war.

Co-sponsoring the 2013 season, along with the Friends of the Missouri State Archives, were Hawthorn Bank, the Eldon Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and an anonymous local foundation. The generosity of these groups made 28 performances possible, and for this, the Missouri State Archives is extremely grateful.

Since its inception in 2005, the *Archives Alive!* program has remained a favorite among students and teachers alike, with many schools making return trips each year. Although the Friends of the Missouri State Archives have raised funds to continue the Civil War programming through the 2014 season, additional support is always welcome and can be put towards future seasons. If you are interested in helping to commemorate the sesquicentennial of the Civil War by supporting Civil War *Archives Alive!*, please contact Emily Luker at 573-526-5296 or [emily.luker@sos.mo.gov](mailto:emily.luker@sos.mo.gov).

## *Supreme Court of Missouri Exhibit Opening*

**Missouri State Archives, November 18, 2013, 5:30 p.m.**

The Missouri State Archives, the Supreme Court of Missouri and the Supreme Court of Missouri Historical Society are happy to invite all members of the Friends of the Missouri State Archives to attend the opening of an exhibit displaying several rare items from the collection of the Supreme Court. Highlights include a copy of the laws of the Louisiana Territory handwritten by William Henry Harrison, a unique list of Missouri attorneys from 1869 to 1958, early printed European law texts and pages from the files of the original Dred Scott cases heard before the Supreme Court of Missouri. The exhibit will open at 5:30 p.m. in the lobby of the James C. Kirkpatrick State Information Center, followed at 5:45 by a few brief remarks from Chief Justice Mary Russell and Missouri Secretary of State Jason Kander. Refreshments will be provided by the Supreme Court of Missouri Historical Society.

The exhibit opening is a free event, but space is limited so please RSVP to Brian Rogers at (573) 526-1981 or [brian.rogers@sos.mo.gov](mailto:brian.rogers@sos.mo.gov) no later than November 11.

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## *Supreme Court of Missouri Historical Society Annual Dinner*

**Jefferson City Country Club, November 18, 2013, 6:30 p.m.**

Following the exhibit opening, the Supreme Court of Missouri Historical Society will hold its annual dinner at the Jefferson City Country Club starting at 6:30 p.m. Guest speaker Kathy Shurtleff will present on her role as the Assistant Director of the U.S. Supreme Court Historical Society. Friends' members will be charged the same rate as Historical Society members, \$35.00 per person, payable at the door.

To attend the Supreme Court of Missouri Historical Society annual dinner, please RSVP to Frank Duda at [fxduda@anderson-gilbert.com](mailto:fxduda@anderson-gilbert.com), no later than November 11.



# ***Donations to the Friends of the Missouri State Archives (as of October 9, 2013)***

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Louise Schreiber, Jefferson City  
Rhonda Stansfield, Festus  
Sharyl Swope, Seattle, WA

## ***Archives Afield: An Intern's Perspective***

*Continued from Page 4*

and found myself working for eight weeks in the only publicly funded conservation lab in the state. I saw, learned, accomplished, failed and asked questions until I was blue in the face and others were surely tired of hearing my big voice.

Ultimately, two semesters processing records as an intern at Truman State University, and two intensive months as an intern in the conservation lab, taught me more than I thought possible about archives and conservation. Additionally, these experiences aided my decision on a future career path—that is, until I go home to visit my parents and tell them I want to be a basket weaver!

# ***Missouri*** **Digital Heritage**

## ***Newly Available Through the Missouri Digital Heritage Website***

**Kansas City 1940 Tax Assessment Photographs**

[www.sos.mo.gov/archives/mdh\\_splash/default.asp?coll=kcpltax](http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/mdh_splash/default.asp?coll=kcpltax)

**National World War I Museum Online Collections Database**

<http://theworldwar.pastperfect-online.com/35156cgi/mweb.exe?request=random>

**Saint Louis University Yearbooks, 1903-2005**

<http://cdm.slu.edu/cdm/landingpage/collection/historicpub>

## ***Local Records Program Notes the Passing of Longtime Volunteer Marlene Altemueller***

It is with great regret that we acknowledge the passing of Franklin County Probate Court volunteer Marlene Altemueller on September 19, 2013. For more than six years, Marlene devoted over 414 hours towards processing probate court records. Her love of history, dedication and friendship will truly be missed. She is survived by her husband Richard and their five children.

## ***What's New at the Archives?***

For a list of new acquisitions, visit us at  
[www.sos.mo.gov/archives/resources/accessions.asp](http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/resources/accessions.asp)



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